Canada Adds to NHL Hockey Stars Series

On September 23 Canada released the fourth set in its five year NHL Stars series, leading up to the NHL's 100th anniversary in 2017. This Great Canadian Forwards set honors some of the greatest goal-scorers ever to play in the NHL.

The six legends hail from five provinces. As a group, they played in more than 8,300 NHL games and scored more than 3,800 goals and more than 5,700 assists. Between them, they have won 18 Stanley Cup Championships.

Phil Esposito played for the Chicago Blackhawks, Boston Bruins and New York Rangers, scoring 1,590 points in 1,282 regular-season games over an 18-season NHL career. Esposito helped lead the Bruins to two Stanley Cup Championships and Team Canada to victory in the 1972 Summit Series.

Guy Lafleur played for the Montreal Canadiens, New York Rangers and Quebec Nordiques, scoring 560 goals and 793 assists for a total of 1,353 regular-season points over a 17-season NHL career. He won five Stanley Cup Championships as a player with the Canadiens and was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1988 and the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame in 1996.

Darryl Sittler played for the Toronto Maple Leafs, Philadelphia Flyers and Detroit Red Wings, scoring 484 goals and 637 assists for 1,121 regular season points over his 15-season NHL career. He became the first Leaf to score 100 points in a season and also made history by scoring 10 points in a game, an NHL record that still stands.

Mark Messier played 25 seasons in the NHL for the Edmonton Oilers, New York Rangers and Vancouver Canucks. He is one of the game's highest scorers, ranking second among all-time points leaders with 1,887. He scored 694 goals and 1,193 assists in 1,756 regular-season games and holds the record for most NHL games played, including playoffs, 1,992. He won five Stanley Cup Championships with the Oilers and another with the Rangers. A 15-time All-Star, Messier is the only player to captain two different franchises to Stanley Cup titles.

Steve Yzerman was a nine-time All-Star who played in 1,514 regular-season NHL games and another 196 playoff contests over 22 seasons—all with the Detroit Red Wings. He scored 692 goals and 1,063 assists for 1,755 career points. He led the Wings to three Stanley Cup Championships (1997, 1998, 2002).

Sidney Crosby has played his entire NHL career to date with the Stanley Cup Champion Pittsburgh Penguins. Drafted first overall in 2005, at age 18 he became the youngest NHL player to notch more than 100 points. Named captain two years after entering the NHL, he was the youngest captain ever to win the Stanley Cup championship in 2009 at age 21. He won the Stanley Cup Championship a second time last spring. He is also a two-time Olympic gold medal winner (2010 and 2014) and captured gold with Team Canada at the 2015 International Ice Hockey Federation World Championship.

The 2016 NHL stamps are available in a mixed booklet of six, containing all of this year's lineup. Also available is a mini-pane featuring all six players. Souvenir sheets in this series resemble hockey cards and feature full images of the players in action. The back of the stamps complete the hockey-card experience, offering career statistics that tell part of the players' professional story. The Official FDC for each player was cancelled in the birthplace of that player.

Go to https://www.canadapost.ca/shop/stamps/2016-stamps for additional information on this and other Canada new issues.